GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2083
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
EXTRADITION OF BOFORS ACCUSED
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysian High Court has turned down the request of CBI for the extradition of Bofors payoff accused Ottavio Quattrocchi as reported in the Times of India dated January 3, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons cited by the court in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for his extradition?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) The Sessions Court in Kuala Lumpur had on 2nd December 2002, discharged Ottavio Quattrocchi of the Extradition proceedings on the grounds that a proper description of the offences committed by Mr. Quattrocchi had to be tendered in Court and that the failure to do so amounted to non-compliance with the Malaysian Law. On 13th December 2002, the Kuala Lumpur High Court upheld the decision of the Sessions Court.

(c) An appeal, challenging the High Court`s decision has been filed in the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal, on 16th December 2002 passed an Ex parte Order directing Mr. Quattrocchi to surrender his passport to the Court pending disposal of the appeal. Subsequently, the Court of Appeal heard arguments from the parties involved on 6th January 2003 and reserved judgment to a date to be fixed. Developments in the case are being closely monitored by the Government.